(a) the number of broadband connections given in Jharkhand;

(b) whether Government have fixed any target in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the progress in achieving this target is satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of Broadband Internet Subscribers in Jharkhand are 980 (approximately), based on reports submitted by major Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

(b) to (d) Government has announced Broadband Policy in the month of October, 2004. In this policy, no roll-out obligation or State-wise targets have been specified for the service providers. However, Government has envisioned accelerated growth of Broadband subscribers in the country targeting 3 million and 20 million Broadband subscribers by the end of 2005 and 2010 respectively. The number of Broadband Internet subscribers in the country, as on 30-09-2005 are around 6 lakhs.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is the dominant Internet Service Provider providing Broadband services in Jharkhand and they have set a target of 9426 broadband connections for year 2005-06 for Jharkhand.

Personal Computer (PC), content and applications are important constituents for overall growth of Internet and Broadband services. Slow growth of PC penetration and lack of content and applications still remains a cause for concern and affect the slow take-off of Broadband services.

Clearance of waiting list of Landline, Mobile and WLL phones in Eastern U.P.

†3243. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of landline, WLL and mobile phones provided by BSNL during the last two years in Mau, Azamgarh, Sultanpur, Ambedkar Nagar and Jaunpur districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the district-wise details of the number of applications received for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

installation of new telephone connections in the districts during the aforesaid period as well as the existing waiting list therein; and

(c) by when the waiting list of landline, WLL and mobile phones would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total number of landline, WLL and mobile phones provided by BSNL during the last two years i.e. 2003-04 and 2004-05 in Mau, Azamgarh, Sultanpur, Ambedkar Nagar and Jaunpur districts of Uttar Pradesh was as follows:

Sl. No.	District	Landline	WLL	Mobile
1.	Mau	3607	641	11377
2.	Azamgarh	2124	529	19075
3.	Sultanpur	6743	729	12747
4.	Ambedkar Nagar	920	815	12165
5.	Jaunpur	3156	3071	21853

(b) and (c) The details of applications received for installation of new telephone connections in respect of the five districts during the last two years and status of waiting list was as follows:

Sl. No.	District	No. of applications received	Waiting list as on 30-11-2005*
1.	Mau	36386	12690
2.	Azamgarh	53390	6859
3.	Sultanpur	31787	9811
4.	Ambedkar Nagar	4458	2723
5.	Jaunpur	55725	37528

*Latest available.

The waiting list is likely to be cleared by March, 2007 progressively.

Voluntary retirement benefits to employees of ITI, Rai Bareli

3244. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: